

MINUTES
SPECIAL WORKSESSION/ROUNDTABLE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YUMA, ARIZONA
CONFERENCE ROOM 190, YUMA CITY HALL
ONE CITY PLAZA, YUMA, ARIZONA
December 15, 2009
3:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Mayor Shoop called the City Council meeting to order.

Councilmembers Present: Shoop, Mendoza, Beeson, McClendon, Nicholls, and Mayor Nelson (arrived at 3:03 p.m.)
Councilmembers Absent: Johnson
Staffmembers Present: City Administrator, Mark S. Watson
Deputy City Administrator, Bob Stull
Director of Engineering, Paul Brooberg
Utilities Director, Hank Baer
Various Department Heads or their representative
City Clerk, Brigitta M. Kuiper

I. ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ADOT) OPEN HOUSE

Paul Patane, Yuma District Engineer, Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), briefed the City Council regarding the open house held by ADOT on the 16th Street reconstruction project:

- Local business owners along the 16th Street corridor expressed concerns for their loss in business.
- Business owners discussed and shared ideas regarding enhancement of advertisement.
- Yuma Palms has experienced a 1% decrease in sales.
- Some business owners understood the necessity for the left turn restrictions.
- Currently, the reconstruction of the bridge is on schedule and ADOT is working on the U.S. 95 structure, along the south side.
- Two through lanes in each direction are scheduled to open December 21, 2009.
- ADOT will be meeting with City staff to discuss issues with traffic backups to 4th Avenue.
- The new temporary blue signs designed by City staff have been very helpful; Maple Avenue could use additional signage now that the roadway has re-opened.
- Additional signage would also be helpful going north on 16th Street, off Maple Avenue.
- It was requested that ADOT and the City work with the local media to inform the public that there are no right turns on Arizona Avenue and on how to get to the local businesses in the affected area.
- There cannot be too many messages on a trailer mounted message board because it makes it difficult to read.

- Riley Avenue is scheduled to open for traffic soon.
- Currently, the reconstruction project is on schedule and the contract completion date is late August 2010.
- ADOT made a prior commitment to refund \$1 million back to the City of Yuma.
 - Patane asked the City Administrator to follow up by writing a letter requesting the \$1 million refund.
- Business owners along the 16th Street corridor impacted by the road construction cannot solely blame the City for the decline in business; the economy is also to blame.
- ADOT is installing raised medians along the 16th Street corridor; left turns will still be prohibited once the project is complete, except for Arizona Avenue, Riley Avenue and Redondo Drive.

II. AVENUE A RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Brooberg briefed the City Council on the Avenue A street reconstruction project between 16th Street and 24th Street.

- Some material from the 16th Street and Avenue A reconstruction projects has been recycled and is being reused.
- Relocation of utilities for Southwest Gas, Qwest and Arizona Public Service (APS) is the primary slow down on the west side of Avenue A.
- The contractor is currently placing concrete, curb and gutter.
- Access to the businesses on the east side of the street has been re-established; the west side of the street shows little business activities.
- Access to the Goldsboro Bakery is from 24th Street, through the adjacent property.
- The only major underground work left for the City to complete is the storm drain facilities at the intersection of 20th Street.
- The west side of the street will continue to be served from Avenue A, with the exception of 16th Place which will be closed off.
 - For residents on 16th Place heading towards Avenue A, there will be a detour to 13th and 14th Avenues.
- The re-opening of the connected streets on Avenue A is scheduled to take place in mid-January 2010.
- Plans for Goldsboro Bakery to move across the street are not confirmed. The potable water line, fire suppression line, sanitary sewer water lines, sidewalks, curb and gutter have been installed in preparation of the relocation.
- The new City Council will address any upcoming issues.

III. LOCAL PREFERENCE IN AWARDING PUBLIC BIDS

Watson presented City Council with a proposed staff report and ordinance regarding local preference in the public bid process; the ordinance amends the Yuma City Code.

Discussion key points:

- The ordinance incorporates bidders' preference on price quotes items from \$2,500 to \$50,000.

- An amendment to the Yuma City Code allows the City Administrator and his/her designee to solicit price quotes locally and bidder's preference, in accordance with the Yuma City Charter.
- The City would continue to abide by the rules and regulations of the Charter.
- The intent of the draft is to minimize changes to the existing power of the City Council, with bids under the \$50,000 threshold.
- The local bidder's preference shall begin February 2010.
- The Charter defines a local bidder as one whose business is located inside the City limits.
- The proposed ordinance does not require voter approval.
- Definition of "local" needs to be specified, where taxes are paid and not where the business is located is the consensus.
- An informal group composed of a General Contractor, Sub Contractor, Engineer, Architect, and Councilmembers Beeson and McClendon was formed to review the following:
 - Complication of the Charter - is best handled through an ordinance level.
 - Proposed text change to the Yuma City Charter, to delete the current local preference section and replace with "the City Council shall create, maintain and enforce a local preference ordinance".
- The group focused on contracting and professional services.
- Amendments to the Charter could go forward at the May 2010 election, splitting the cost with two franchise agents, Southwest Gas and Arizona Public Service.
 - An approximate cost of an election is about \$75,000.
- Yuma City Charter amendment will be submitted to City Council for discussion at the January 6, 2010, Regular Council Meeting for consideration.
- Pima County is a good community model and consistent on providing local preference.
- Keeping locals employed and as many dollars in Yuma is the main goal.
- Changing Charter language requires approval by the Attorney General.
 - After taking the issue to groups and individuals of the community, it was suggested to change "shall" to "may".
 - It is recommended to add the words "in accordance with the state law", to the Charter amendment.
- Another approach may be to delete the local preference provision section and leave Charter silent on the issue; this may be difficult to sell to voters.
- Need to make sure the Charter is in accordance to the state law.
- The City of Yuma is the only municipality in the state that has local preference prohibited in the Charter.

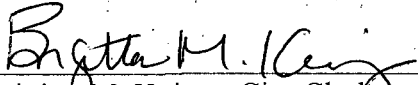
IV. UPDATES

Baer invited the Mayor and Council to the grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony of the Aqua Viva Water Treatment Facility on Thursday, December 17, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.

Watson stated that he and **Moore** attended the Colorado River Water Users Association annual conference.

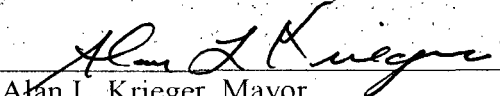
V. ADJOURNMENT/EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion (Beeson/McClendon): To adjourn to Executive Session. Voice vote: **adopted** 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 4:01 p.m.



Brigitta M. Kuiper, City Clerk

APPROVED:



Alan L. Krieger, Mayor

Approved at the City Council Meeting of:
<u>Feb 16-2010</u>
Deputy City Clerk: <u>L. Rushme</u>